

**KIM IL SUNG**

**THE PUBLIC HEALTH LAW  
OF THE DEMOCRATIC  
PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC  
OF KOREA**

WORKING PEOPLE OF THE WHOLE WORLD, UNITE!

**KIM IL SUNG**

**THE PUBLIC HEALTH LAW  
OF THE DEMOCRATIC  
PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC  
OF KOREA**

Adopted at the Fourth Session of the Sixth Supreme  
People's Assembly of the Democratic People's  
Republic of Korea  
*April 3, 1980*

# CONTENTS

Chapter I. Basic Principles of Public Health.....	1
Chapter II. The System of Complete and Universal Free Medical Service.....	2
Chapter III. Protection of Health in Accordance with the Policy of Prophylactic Medicine.....	4
Chapter IV. Juche-Based Medical Science and Technique.....	6
Chapter V. Material Guarantees for Public Health Work .....	7
Chapter VI. Health Workers, the True Servants of the People .....	7
Chapter VII. Health Agencies and Their Direction and Management .....	8

## CHAPTER I

### BASIC PRINCIPLES OF PUBLIC HEALTH

**Article 1.** Public health service in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea is a worthy and honourable revolutionary work to protect the lives and promote the health of people, the masters of nature and society and the most precious beings in the world, and to enable all the working people to enjoy sound health and longevity and contribute actively to the accomplishment of the socialist and communist cause.

**Article 2.** With the establishment of the most advanced public health system in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea the people's centuries-old desire to live long in good health without worries about medical treatment has been materialized splendidly.

The system of complete and universal free medical service in our country is firmly ensured by the solid independent national economy and the State's popular health policy.

The State further consolidates and develops the system of universal free medical service.

**Article 3.** The basis of socialist medicine is prophylaxis.

In public health service the State firmly pursues the policy of prophylactic medicine that applies the principle of socialist medicine.

**Article 4.** The State develops the Juche-based medical science and technique and fully secures material and technical conditions and means needed for public health service so as to constantly modernize and scientize medical treatment and prevention.

**Article 5.** The State trains health workers in a planned way and develops them to be the true servants of the people by continually enhancing their ideological consciousness and technical level.

**Article 6.** In the direction and management of public health service the State carries through the Chongsanri spirit and Chongsanri method whereby the superiors help their subordinates and give priority to political work so as to arouse their voluntary zeal and creativity.

**Article 7.** The State gives free medical service to the foreign exiles who have struggled for peace, democracy, national independence and socialism or for the freedom of scientific and cultural pursuits and their children and takes care of their health.

**Article 8.** The State constantly develops scientific and technical interchanges and cooperation in the health spheres with all countries which are friendly towards our country.

## CHAPTER II

### THE SYSTEM OF COMPLETE AND UNIVERSAL FREE MEDICAL SERVICE

**Article 9.** The State provides every citizen with the benefits of complete free medical service.

The workers, farmers, soldiers, working intellectuals and all the rest of citizens have the right to free medical treatment.

All medical services are completely free.

1. All medicines provided by medical establishments to the patients including the outpatients are free.

2. All services for patients such as diagnoses, experiments, tests, treatment, operations, sick calls, treatment and meals at hospital are free of charge.

3. Medical services for the working people's recuperation are free and the travel expenses to and from the places of recuperation are borne by the State or cooperative organizations.

4. Assistance in delivery is free.

5. Health checkups, health consultations, preventive vaccinations and other prophylactic medical services are free.

**Article 10.** The State gives deep concern and care to the protection of the health of women and children.

The State gives special benefits to a woman who bears more than a child at once and her children and assumes the whole responsibility for rearing the children who have no one to take care of them.

**Article 11.** The State gives special concern and care to the preservation of the health of revolutionary fighters, families of revolutionary and patriotic martyrs, disabled soldiers and dependants of the People's Army personnel.

**Article 12.** The State assumes the care of those who have lost work ability, chronic invalids who have no caretakers, and aged patients, so that they fully enjoy free medical treatment.

**Article 13.** Patients and women on maternity leave and their dependants are given provisions, subsidies and shares. Their provisions, subsidies and shares are borne by the State and social and cooperative organizations.

**Article 14.** The State rationally distributes and modernizes people's hospitals and clinics in towns, farm villages, factories and enterprises, fishing villages, lumbermen's settlements, builds specialized hospitals such as maternity and children's hospitals and specialized sanatoria in different places and continually raises the level of specialized medical services so that the people receive treatment anywhere at any time without inconveniences.

**Article 15.** In order to ensure Korean medical treatment handed down as a national tradition, the State expands the network of this treatment and makes sure that medical establishments widely introduce Korean methods of treatment based on modern medical diagnosis.

**Article 16.** The State builds many modern facilities for recuperation in the areas which have hot springs and spas and

good climates so that the people are better benefited by the recuperation through natural factors.

### CHAPTER III

#### PROTECTION OF HEALTH IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE POLICY OF PROPHYLACTIC MEDICINE

**Article 17.** The State regards it as a main duty in its activity to take measures to prevent the people from being affected by disease and directs efforts first and foremost to prophylaxis in public health work.

**Article 18.** Health and other agencies, enterprises and organizations should strengthen hygienic propaganda and education so that the people participate voluntarily in hygienic work, protect and look after their health in a scientific way and prevent diseases.

**Article 19.** Creating and preserving hygienic living and work environments is an important guarantee for the carrying out of the policy of prophylactic medicine.

Health and other agencies, enterprises, organizations and citizens should strictly abide by the hygienic regulations made by the State and carry out vigorous hygienic activities through a mass movement so as to keep the streets, villages, homes and workplaces clean and thoroughly establish cultured practices in daily life and productive activity.

**Article 20.** Agencies and enterprises should distribute and construct and take good care of the working people's dwelling houses, cultural and welfare facilities and public installations in keeping with hygienic requirements so as to protect the people's health.

**Article 21.** The State prevents pollution in all spheres of the national economy in order to protect living environment.

Factories, enterprises and agencies concerned should plant and create many roadside trees and lawns and make sure that the

atmosphere, rivers and streams and land are not contaminated by harmful gases and other matters.

**Article 22.** Factories, enterprises and agencies concerned should secure labour protection supplies, including nutritive, and the hygiene protection instruments and regularly conduct preventive activities so as to prevent all industrial diseases.

**Article 23.** Factories and enterprises concerned and public catering agencies should strictly observe the hygienic regulations laid down by the State in making and handling foodstuffs and other products.

**Article 24.** State agencies and social and cooperative organizations concerned should satisfactorily supply nutritive and, particularly, vitamins and growth accelerators necessary for the health and development of children.

Creches and kindergartens should take good care of the nutrition and hygiene of the children in accordance with scientific principles.

**Article 25.** The State popularizes physical culture and constantly promotes the health and physical strength of the people.

Schools, agencies, enterprises and organizations should popularize physical culture and make it part of the daily life of students and working people so that they harden their bodies and do not fall ill.

**Article 26.** The State takes thoroughgoing preventive measures against epidemics.

Health and other agencies, enterprises and organizations concerned should eliminate causes for the outbreak of epidemics, intensify sterilization and take thoroughgoing measures of inoculation for the population.

Health and other agencies concerned should strengthen quarantine to prevent the infiltration of epidemics from foreign countries.

**Article 27.** The State consolidates and develops the section-doctor system, an advanced medical service system,



whereby doctors take charge of definite districts and always visit their districts and take care of the health of the inhabitants and treat them on prophylactic lines.

#### CHAPTER IV JUCHE-BASED MEDICAL SCIENCE AND TECHNIQUE

**Article 28.** Medical science research institutions and other agencies concerned should work preferentially for the solution of major scientific and technical problems arising in the treatment and prevention of diseases, while conducting researches into basic medical science in a far-sighted way.

**Article 29.** Health agencies and medical science research institutions should strengthen researches for the schematization of Korean medicine so as to theoretically systematize and further develop traditional Korean medicine and folk remedies.

**Article 30.** Scientific research institutions concerned should accelerate research work for the mass-production of medicines and modern medical equipment and appliances suitable to our people's physical conditions by drawing on the latest scientific and technological achievements.

**Article 31.** Medical science research institutions and other agencies concerned should enlist health workers widely in medical science research and strengthen creative cooperation between medical scientists and health workers so as to steadily develop medical science and technique.

**Article 32.** The State builds up medical science research centres in the capital and provinces and provides them with adequate material and technical means and conditions needed for scientific research work.

## CHAPTER V

### MATERIAL GUARANTEES FOR PUBLIC HEALTH WORK

**Article 33.** The State develops both large pharmaceutical and medical-appliances industries under central authority and small and medium local ones, relying on the basis of the independent national economy.

**Article 34.** Agencies, factories and enterprises concerned should produce and supply medicines and medical appliances in a planned way to satisfy the demands of developing public health work.

**Article 35.** Agencies, factories and enterprises concerned should specialize in the production of medicines and medical appliances, steadily improve their quality and guarantee their cultured packing.

**Article 36.** The State builds up herbal medicine production centres and ensures that all agencies, enterprises, organizations and citizens participate widely in the cultivation and collection of medicinal herbs.

Agencies that produce herbal medicines and other agencies concerned should protect and propagate resources of traditional Korean medicines abundant in the country and harvest them in a planned way.

**Article 37.** Agencies and enterprises concerned should build modern facilities for the production of mineral water at famous spas and satisfy the people's demands for mineral water.

## CHAPTER VI

### HEALTH WORKERS, THE TRUE SERVANTS OF THE PEOPLE

**Article 38.** In the Democratic People's Republic of Korea health workers are engineers of human lives and honourable

revolutionaries who enable all the people to participate actively in socialist construction in good health.

Health workers should be the people's true servants who devote their all to the work of protecting the people's lives and promoting their health, with a high sense of honour and responsibility for their duties.

**Article 39.** Health workers should equip themselves firmly with the Juche idea and constantly revolutionize and working-classize themselves.

**Article 40.** Health workers should vigorously develop the devoted-service movement to take loving care of patients like their own kith and kin and treat them with all their talents and hearts.

**Article 41.** Health workers should play both the role of doctors who disseminate hygienic knowledge and treat patients and the role of propagandist-educators who unite people around the Workers' Party of Korea.

**Article 42.** Health workers should constantly enrich their scientific and technical knowledge, strengthen the system of collective discussion in medical activities, and strictly observe definite technical rules and norms of action.

**Article 43.** Health workers who protect the life and health of man enjoy high respect and love of the people.

The State confers honorary titles on those health workers who have distinguished themselves in public health service, and gives them various favours.

## CHAPTER VII HEALTH AGENCIES AND THEIR DIRECTION AND MANAGEMENT

**Article 44.** In the Democratic People's Republic of Korea health

agencies are popular agencies that protect the lives and promote the health of the people, the masters of the State and society, so as to guarantee their happy life and satisfactory social activities.

**Article 45.** Health agencies include establishments for medical treatment and prevention such as hospitals, clinics, sanatoria, hygienic prevention centres, and quarantine stations, as well as medicaments supply and management agencies and medicaments inspection agencies.

**Article 46.** The State directs and manages public health service through all government bodies and health administration agencies.

Government bodies and health administration agencies at all levels should organize and direct in a responsible way the work of thoroughly executing the State's public health policy and health law regulations.

**Article 47.** Personnel of health administration agencies should regularly go down to lower units as required by the Chongsanri method and acquaint themselves with their state of affairs, help solve their problems, and give priority to political work so that health workers work well for treatment and prevention.

**Article 48.** In the direction and management of public health service government bodies and health administration agencies at all levels should induce health workers to exhibit their collective wisdom and initiative, strengthen technical guidance to them and thoroughly establish the medical supply system, in conformity with the requirements of the Tae'an work system.

**Article 49.** Public health service concerns the whole of the nation and society.

All agencies, enterprises, organizations and citizens should take an active part in the worthwhile work to further consolidate and develop the advanced system of public health service established in our country and carry through the policy of prophylactic medicine.